

SECULAR JEWISH CULTURE

Spring 2011

T: 11:45-1:40, R: 12:50-1:40

TUR 2322

Instructor: Jack Kugelma
Office: 201 Walker Hall
Hours: Wednesday 1:00-3:00
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Course Description:

In their encounter with modernity, Jews confronted unprecedented challenges that required them to redefine themselves in non-traditional ways. Central to this process of rearticulating Jewish identity was the production of a new body of Jewish texts remarkable in its heterogeneity. This class explores the key texts of Jewish culture as it developed many of these outside the boundaries of religious life and forms. Throughout the course we read selections from a range of sources from within Jewish cultural environments in order to orient ourselves towards the various expressions of Jewish history, politics, literature, and art. No prior coursework in Jewish studies is required.

Objectives:

To introduce students to the depth and breadth of Jewish culture through key texts of modern Jewish historical, political, literary and artistic experience
To engage in the study of Jewish society from an academic perspective
To study the secular expressions of Jews in a variety of cultural contexts
To investigate the diversity of Jewish strategies in acculturating and contributing to non-Jewish milieux
To foster critical reading, writing and analytical skills

Requirements:

Attendance and **Participation**: This seminar is designed to be highly participatory; students are expected to engage actively in class discussions at every meeting. Accordingly, attendance and participation in all aspects of this class are mandatory. Timely, thorough and careful reading of each day's assignment is a crucial element of participating thoughtfully and openly. **Come to class with at least two prepared questions about the readings**, and ready to engage in further discussion. Bring the reading with you to each class. In order to participate fully you must be present in both body and mind. Regular and lively participation by all students will make this class more interesting, entertaining, and valuable. Informed questions along with active discussions of class materials will factor into the evaluation of your participation grade. Because attendance has

a direct impact on your participation, more than two unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your grade.

Grading: As a way of engaging more deeply with the themes and topics of this class, you will keep a journal in which to respond to the readings as well as the class discussions based upon those readings. Journal entries (two to three pages) should briefly summarize the material and critically engage with main themes and ideas. You can refer to previous lectures and reading materials covered in the class as well, if you want. Journals will be due on the following dates:

January 12 (the interview)

February 7 (based on the readings and lecture "Spain and Aftermath")

February 28 (based on readings and lectures on Spinoza, *Glikl of Hameln*, Solomon Maimon's *An Autobiography*, and Sholem Aleichem's *Tevye the Dairyman*)

March 20 (based on *The Rise of David Levinsky*)

April 17 (based on *Leon the Pig Farmer*)

For the readings not covered in the journals, shorter, one-paragraph summaries are due at the beginning of class on Tuesday on the following dates:

Jan. 17 (summarizing the Genesis material)

Jan. 24 (summarizing the reading from *Rome and Jerusalem*)

March 27 (summarizing the readings on Kafka)

Emailed attachments are not acceptable. Failure to complete any of the required assignments of the course will result in a lower grade. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. Two or more missed classes without written excuse will result in a lowered grade. Extra credit and/or make-up for missed classes can be done by attending and submitting a short written report on any of the JST sponsored public lectures. Check the JST web site (www.jst.ufl.edu/events) for the spring schedule of public lectures. New ones will be added throughout the semester so check periodically.

Additional Note: Please read and be familiar with the University of Florida's definition of and policy regarding plagiarism as described in the Code of Student Conduct. The first of many pages that outline students' responsibilities and obligations can be found at the following UF website. Please read it. <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>. Intentional plagiarism

of any source will result in a failing grade for the course. If you do not understand plagiarism or what constitutes it, please ask.

If you have a disability that requires special arrangements (e.g., note- and/or test-taking), please register with UF's Office of Students with Disabilities and contact the instructor **within the first two weeks of class**. Every effort will be made to accommodate those with registered disabilities.

N.B.: Turn off all pagers, cell phones, wireless PDAs and other electronic communication devices before class. Anyone who wishes to take notes with a laptop must sit up front. I do check periodically and will eject anyone doing email or surfing the web during lectures and discussions.

Also, books are at the University book store and can also be ordered very cheaply on line. I'll be giving you shorter readings to go with some of the films. They'll either be hand outs or available on line.

SYLLABUS

January 10 Introduction/ *The Tribe*

January 12 Discussion/ Interviews

January 17 (Robert Kawashima) Genesis

January 19 Genesis

January 24 Martin Goodman, *Rome and Jerusalem: the Clash of Ancient Civilizations*. Pp3-152.

January 26 Martin Goodman, *Rome and Jerusalem*, Pp. 155-95.

January 31 Nina Caputo, Spain and Aftermath (Selected readings)

February 2 Spain and Aftermath

February 7 Dragan Kujundzic Spinoza selected texts

February 9 Spinoza

February 14 *The Memoirs of Glikl of Hameln*

February 16 *Glikl of Hameln*

February 21 Solomon Maimon, *An Autobiography*

February 23 *An Autobiography*

February 28 Sholem Aleichem, *Tevye the Dairyman*

March 1 Sholem Aleichem, *Tevye the Dairyman*

March 6 Spring Break

March 8 Spring Break

March 13 Esther Romeyn *The Rise of David Levinsky*

March 15 Esther Romeyn *The Rise of David Levinsky*

March 20 *The Jazz Singer*

March 22 Discussion of Readings: Michael Rogin, *Blackface, White Noise: Jewish immigrants in the Hollywood Melting Pot*. Pp73-121.

March 27 Eric Kligerman Kafka, (selected texts)

March 29 Eric Kligerman Kafka, (selected texts)

April 3 *Leon the Pig Farmer*

April 5 Reading: Jack Kugelmass, "'I'm a Gentile!' Border Dramas and Jewish Continuity." In Goldberg, et. al. *Dynamic Belonging: Contemporary Jewish Collective Identities*, pp223-236.

April 10 Passover, no class

April 12 Passover, no class

April 17 Jewish Humor

April 19 Discussion

April 24 Last Class